

Is Hell Real??

What happens to people who do not go to Heaven?

Welcome to a topic of much debate. Many commentaries have been written over the years and many books have been written on the subject. If you are a Christian, the writings you should be reading on the subject are in the Bible. If you are not a Christian, nobody knows more about what is to come in the afterlife, than Jesus Christ. If you believe the Bible is true, then you will know that from Revelation 20:11-15:

The Dead Are Judged

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Revelation 21:8

This is not good news for those not going to Heaven. It is such a disturbing thought that some people desperately hold to beliefs that if Hell does exist and you *DO* go to Hell, you do not suffer, you are simply annihilated and cease to exist. Their reasoning is this: *Why would such a so-called loving God want to see people tortured forever? That doesn't sound like love at all! That's not love, that's mean!*



Jesus Christ *knows* how bad it is going to be for the unsaved. That is precisely why He came from Heaven and died on a cross to save us...to save us from the eternal torment originally created for Satan and his rebellious followers. If we suffer with Satan, it is our own fault.

**There are only two places to spend eternity...Heaven or the Lake of Fire.
Take your pick!**



Many arguments abound concerning whether or not Hell exists. It is interesting that people who claim Hell and/or the Lake of Fire do not exist, surprisingly are not just non-believers. There are those people who claim to be Christians that claim there is no Hell!

The Bible speaks of Death, Hell, Hades, Sheol, and the Lake of Fire so many times throughout both the old and new testaments that it is impossible to hold on to such a belief without closing your eyes to what God's Word says. (Scripture references can be found at the end of this article) Putting your fingers in your ears, closing your eyes and repeating "la, la, la, la, la, I don't want to hear it" does not make Hell any less true or any less real.

There are some Christian denominations that believe preaching about the Fires of Hell is wrong, and those that preach on the subject are just trying to scare people into accepting Christ, while at the same time they try to convince people that Heaven is real. Either ALL of God's Word is true, or none of it is. You cannot pick and choose what is true. And, if Hell is real, why wouldn't we want to tell people?

There are those who believe the soul goes to Purgatory after death, where it does a 'time out'. After the soul has spent the required amount of time being punished, it can then move on to Heaven.

Then, there are those who believe that there is no after-life and the soul simply ceases to exist after the physical body dies. Some believe everyone goes to Heaven. Some believe we come back 'reincarnated' either as a human to try to be or do better, or as an animal. There are many other beliefs as well. With so many differences, which one is true? What *REALLY* happens to us after we die?

2nd Peter Chapter 2 warns us against false teachers and false doctrines.

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign LORD, who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed, these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

What does the Bible say about Death, Hell and the Lake of Fire?

First, The "eternal fire" was originally prepared for the devil and his angels. *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" Matt 25:41*

Second, Punishment is eternal. *"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." Matt 25:46*

"...their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." Mark 9:48

"...If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which had been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receive the mark of his name." Rev. 9-11

Third, demons believe punishment is coming. *When he [Jesus] arrived at the other side of the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God!" they shouted. "Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?" Matt 8:29 ; Mark 5:7 ; Luke 8:28*

Fourth, The Lake of Fire is the 'second death'. Rev. 20:14

"...He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death." Rev. 2:11

(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. Rev 20:5-6

Fifth, The final end of all who are not in Heaven is the Lake of Fire.

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Rev. 19:10

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Rev 20:14

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. Rev 21:8

The Bible does not say anywhere that you cease to exist! The Bible makes it clear that the punishment of the second death includes an eternal torment. If eternal annihilation were true, why would Christ need to suffer on the cross for people who would simply cease to exist? What purpose would the Lake of Fire serve?

If eternal annihilation were true, why would Christ need to suffer on the cross for people that do not exist?



There has been an argument that claims: "The Bible talks about death, and a second death. How can you die twice? How can you suffer eternal torment if you are already dead?"

The Bible talks about life and death of the physical body, as well as life and death of the spiritual being. Every human on earth has been born physically, in a body made of flesh and bone. Every physical body also has a spirit. Everyone whose spirit has left their body, has died physically. Their flesh and bones will rot and return to dust.

When our spirit leaves our body, it travels to either Hell where it enters immediate torment, or to Paradise, where it enters into immediate bliss. Our spirits will wait, either in Hell or Paradise, until we are judged. This is not Purgatory. Once you physically die, your fate is sealed. You cannot do anything to change the location of your spirit.

We can know that if our soul is saved, we immediately enter into the presence of Jesus.

Then he [the thief] said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:42-43

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the LORD. 2 Cor 5:8

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look", he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." Acts 7:55-56 (Then Stephen was stoned and died)

Elijah was taken by a whirlwind up to heaven. 2 Ki 2:11-12

We can know that if we are unsaved when we physically die, our spirit is sent to Hell where it suffers torment.

The story of the Rich man and Lazarus, told by Jesus, in Luke 16 shows this. *"In hell, where he was in torment..."* (vs 23)

"...send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire." (vs 24)

Jesus told this story:

The Rich Man and Lazarus

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar, named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father’s house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

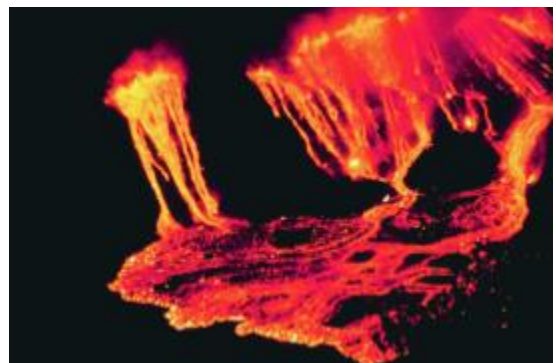
“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Jesus, himself, in this parable says that there is fire in Hell.

Jesus gave this parable to ensure that we all understand that there is a heaven and a hell. He also wants us to understand that there is comfort in heaven and torment in hell.



Scriptures Regarding Hell:

Deut. 32:22	2 Sam 22:6	Job 11:8	Job 26:6	Psalm 9:17	Psalm 16:10
Psalm 18:5	Psalm 55:15	Psalm 86:13	Psalm 116:3	Psalm 139:8	Prov. 5:5
Prov. 7:27	Prov. 9:18	Prov. 15:11	Prov. 15:24	Prov 23:14	Prov. 27:20
Isa 5:14	Isa 14:9	Isa 14:15	Isa 28:15	Isa 28:18	Isa 57:9
Eze 31:16	Eze 31:17	Eze 32:21	Eze 32:27	Amos 9:2	Jonah 2:2
Hab 2:5	Matt 5:22	Matt 5:29	Matt 5:30	Matt 10:28	Matt 11:23
Matt 16:18	Matt 18:9	Matt 23:15	Matt 23:33	Mark 9:43	Mark 9:45
Mark 9:47	Luke 10:15	Luke 12:5	Luke 16:23	Acts 2:27	Acts 2:31
James 3:6	2 Pet 2:4	Rev 1:18	Rev 6:8	Rev 20:13	Rev 20:14

The Good News

There are more than 250 references to Heaven.

For those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, this earth is the only hell they will ever know.

The Bad News

For those who choose to ignore the warnings and die without accepting Christ as their Savior, this earth is the only heaven they will ever know. And to their further shame, the judgement takes place in heaven, so they get to look, but not touch!

“If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

To learn how to be saved, click the button on the top of the menu that says “ How do I get to Heaven?”